

A NEW PRESIDENT TO-DAY.

M'KINLEY AND THE WEATHER BUREAU PREDICT BRIGHT SKIES.

Mr. Cleveland Will Be Able to Perform His Part in the Ceremonies—Pennsylvania Avenue a Mass of Red, White, Blue, and Yellow—The Streets and Hotels Thronged.

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Washington the day before an inauguration is a good deal as New York was the day before the great parade of the business men that preceded November's victorious election. The weather was uncertain. The Washington weather a day or two preceding that great parade in New York. It started out this morning to be cold and rainy and nasty. It was typical of inauguration weather, judging from the standard of 1893 and 1892, and when the people got up to the parade they were disappointed by the stickiness of things that they all balled their heads and said: "Of course we couldn't expect anything else. They ought to abolish the Weather Bureau anyway. It never gives us what we want." This sentiment was universal. "What we want" was that time the clerk of the weather seemed to have a change of mind. Things. The sun came out, the warmth of yesterday came back, and the sidewalks all dried up. The people got back their good temper. Then the clerk of the weather lost his grip. It rained down came the rain, and the wind blew up and the clouds came down and with some decorations. The good temper was gone again, and apparently gone for good. Washington's quarter of a million of population, each and every one, was abroad on the streets waiting for the expression of sour milk. Some time after 4 o'clock the sun came out and the clouds then more rain and more nastiness. At about 4 o'clock in the afternoon the clerk of the weather announced that, while it was possible he had lost control of things temporarily, it would be all right to-morrow. He had been in too long to make observations, and he swore that he couldn't tell whether it was going to shine and pleasant weather. There was a belief more or less general that the clerk of the weather made this statement simply to save himself from being lynched, but he asserted it with such emphasis and earnestness that he was taken at his word. The people were not so conservative as they are here, and they were

the sun began shining this afternoon the streets have been crowded with people, the railroad have been bringing in mobs on special trains and with the crowd that will be on hand to attend the inauguration. It is not probable, however, the big parade may not be a record-breaker, but will be up to the standard, and perhaps a little above the average. The railroad men say that they have arrangements made for carrying the large crowds that will visit the city.

Major McKinley said that notwithstanding the fact that the United States War Department had sent out, he wished to be put down as a weather prophet. He added:

"You can tell the public for me that to-morrow will be a fine day. I am not guessing at it in the least. I am willing to stake my reputation on it. I am prophet on this promise. It is raining now. You can see it. I am sure of it. I am definite about this matter. Well, it will clear off all right. Can't say just when, but it will be some time this evening or to-night."

Mr. Hanna is put down as something of a weather prophet, and he said that the good weather of yesterday would continue over the inauguration day. He said that he was in sympathy with him, but I could not overlook the rain that I saw coming this way, and I was obliged to prophesy rain for to-day. I said yesterday that the chances were it would be rainy to-day and clear-to-morrow. The time for uncertainty has passed, and I should be very much surprised indeed if it were not clear to-day, as so delightful a day in March as any one can hope for."

Washington people and all of the visitors are gratified to learn that President Cleveland will be able to ride up to the Capital with Major McKinley to-morrow. This custom has been going on for a great many years. All of the folks are also

slight indisposition which prevented her from attending the little dinner at the White House on Tuesday night, will be able to go to the Capitol tomorrow morning to attend the inauguration. The Committee of Arrangements have, in the estimation of most people, adopted a good plan for to-morrow's ceremonies at the Capitol. The proceedings on the inaugural platform are to be managed by the members of the Judiciary and Eklins, and they have made the following announcement:

"In the event of stormy weather the inaugural parade, the President will take place in the Senate chamber."

Every mother's son and daughter in Washington to-night is praying for fine weather to-morrow. The Committee of Arrangements have not yet got into the Senate chamber to witness the swearing in of Major McKinley, should the weather turn out to be stormy. Yet the Committee of Arrangements has been very highly commended for the way in which they have managed the thing. It was recalled that it was little less than barbarous on March 4, 1889, to keep President Harrison outside the Capitol to read his inaugural address.

rain. All who were present at that time feared for Harrison's health, and it was said then that some new rule should be adopted by which an incoming President could be protected from the

inaugurated on March 4, 1893, the weather, anything, was worse than on Harrison's day four years before. Yet President Cleveland during all the time that it took to recite his inaugural address, stood bareheaded, with his rain and snow and hail pelting down upon him. There are many faces here to-day who will remember so well the inauguration day of Harrison and the last inauguration day of Cleveland. They can remember them because of the deaths of near relatives occasioned by that awful weather.

President-elect McKinley's mother is a fine old lady, who she deserves very much to be present at the inauguration of her son, and it is certain that all of the ladies of Washington are ready to send up a prayer for a good day to-morrow for the sake of William McKinley's mother. The day will be the crowning event in her long life, and all the ladies in the city and the whole country will be anxious to happen to prevent McKinley's mother from being at the Capitol to-morrow. It will be a great pageant. The troops of the regular army and visiting militia from many States will assemble to make the ceremony a splendid one. The Department of the Interior, the United States Marine Corps, embellized with gold and decorations, will be on hand to guard the president-elect. The government has expended seventy millions of property for the occasion. There will be bands innumerable

When Washington people start out to celebrate by decorating their houses, it must be said that they don't do things by halves, and previous experience with Washington weather has taught them that rain will run won't do. So, in spite of the cold and in spite of the wind today, the sun set to night on a mass of hunting and color, and at a moment it left the stores, Pennsylvania avenue, from end to end, was a continuous mass of red, white, blue, and yellow. The yellow was unusual, but it was put on memory of the overhadowing issue of the late campaign. It looked a good deal like the quarantined flag, but it didn't matter, for the people were bound to have it. The national flag, of course, predominated all the decorations everywhere. There were not in all the decorations on the avenue a dozen flags of other nations. In other parts of the city the flag was everywhere, but it was not with the stars and stripes. But there was one thing noticeable: in all the length and breadth